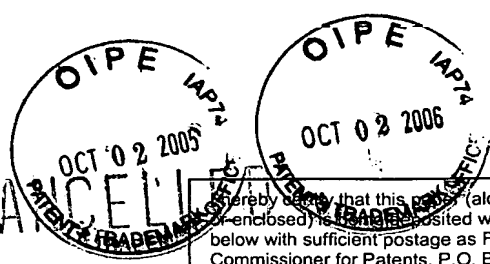


IPW



I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached
enclosed) has been deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown
below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
Dated: September 29, 2006 Signature: [Signature]
(Raymond Garguilo, Jr.)

Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-437
CIPCIPCIPCIPCON XIV
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Errico et al.

Allowed: August 17, 2006

Application No.: 10/642,528

Confirmation No.: 3167

Filed: August 15, 2003

Art Unit: 3738

For: AXIALLY COMPRESSIBLE
ARTIFICIAL INTERVERTEBRAL
DISC HAVING LIMITED
ROTATION USING A CAPTURED
BALL AND SOCKET JOINT WITH
A SOLID BALL AND
COMPRESSION LOCKING POST

Examiner: B. E.
Pellegrino

AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO 37 CFR SECTION 1.312

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Official Communication mailed
September 14, 2006, Applicants submit the following amendment
and remarks.